

The Monitor



January/February/March 2011

Illinois EMT Association • P.O. Box 3151 • Springfield, IL 62708

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Coming Soon: IEMTA Annual Seminar
- 1 President's Message
- 2 IEMTA Annual Elections
- 3 In Memoriam
- 3 Website Update
- 4 Legislative Update
- 5 Proposed fees submitted to State EMS Council
- 6 Court rules that "size matters"

Coming Soon: IEMTA Annual Seminar

Are you ready for some education? The IEMTA Annual Seminar is fast approaching. The seminar brochure is included with this newsletter. Feel free to copy and share with other EMS professionals.

This year's seminar will be held on March 11-13, 2011 at the Northfield Inn & Conference Center in Springfield, Illinois.

"Tools for Your EMS Utility Belt" is shaping up to be an informative seminar to help in the efforts to protect your communities. Highlights of the seminar include: passenger train emergency preparedness; wind farm overview; suspension trauma; live line demo; pipeline issues; underground EMS; and nuclear issues.

Dick Reiners and the seminar committee have put together a program you will not want to miss. This is an opportunity to expand your EMS response knowledge, network with EMS providers from throughout Illinois and support your IEMTA.

President's Message

The weather outside is frightful ~ again~ someone forgot to tell Old Man Winter that we are past the holidays and are headed full steam toward spring. To those of you who are fans of winter, I apologize for my lack of enthusiasm.

After spending a harrowing day on the transfer circuit today, I was pleased to hear that our crew meeting had been canceled for tonight. I was looking forward to an unexpected night at home. Then I received a phone call from a frantic friend whose husband had been in an accident while driving a snowplow. She couldn't get to the hospital due to blowing snow; would I go to the ER and check on him? Of course! As I pulled in to the emergency room the bays were full of ambulances. A common enough sight especially on a night like this, but somehow

it was more personal knowing one of them had brought in one of our own. The unit was bustling but I was able to quickly find our crew and got a big "thumb's up", Derek's injuries thankfully were not serious. As I sat in the room it was interesting to be on the "other side"; watching the calm caring of the staff was comforting. Watching the face of the incoming crews, especially the young ones, reminded me of my earlier years in EMS. Remember when we couldn't wait for the first big snowstorm so we could go out and play?

Those days are fewer for me though I still feel the rush when the pager goes off, but I'm finding myself relieved to have a night on call with no calls. But I'm grateful for the new generation who are so full of zest and excitement for the profession. I'd like to think they learned something from the "old timers". I think we will be in good hands.

Be careful out there!

*Tina Meadows
President*

IEMTA Annual Elections

The IEMTA will hold the annual Election of directors at the Annual seminar on March 13, 2011. Interested individuals should complete the Candidate for Office form included with this newsletter and submit to either:

Tina Meadows
President, IEMTA
102 Mockingbird Lane
LeRoy, IL 61752

Tony Crystal
Vice President, IEMTA
5782 Wilber Ct E
Oreana, IL 62554

All Candidate for Office forms must be received on or before February 11, 2011 to be included on the ballot.

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

- 4.06 Persons running for the position of Director for the Illinois Emergency Medical Technicians Association must be a member in good standing and have been an Active or Emeritus member for six (6) months prior to the election date. Candidates will complete a Candidate for Office Form as designated by the Board. That form will be returned to the election committee and be on file thirty (30) days prior to the election.

NUMBER OF DIRECTORS

- 4.02 There will be sixteen (16) director positions consisting of at least one (1) from each Association region, plus eight (8) At Large Directors. There will be no more than four (4) Directors from any one Association region. (see Appendix A: IEMTA Regional Map or Appendix B: IEMTA Regional County Listing.)

In Memoriam

James A. "Jim" Williams, 74, Retired Warrensburg Fire Chief, passed away at 11:35 P.M., Tuesday, December 28, 2010, in his home after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.

He served on the Warrensburg Volunteer Fire Department for over 50 years, retiring after 25 years as Chief on December 31, 2000. He was a certified first responder and certified firefighter I, II, and III. Jim was committed to the Department and was trained in all aspects of firefighting and EMS. He is still fondly referred to as "Chief" by a lot of the guys, even after retirement he still continued to enjoy events held at the firehouse and always had both scanners going so he didn't miss anything!

Jim touched the lives of many in his years of serving the Warrensburg Fire Department, the Community of Warrensburg and many surrounding communities, and will be missed by many.

He has held many positions within the Community of Warrensburg including director of the Illini Township ESDA, substitute mail carrier, building inspector, and many others; he also served on the Warrensburg Village Board for five terms from 1978 to 1982. In 1995 he joined the E911 ADHOC Committee. He served on the Macon County ETSB Board from the time it was formed in 1997 until 2010, and was involved in bringing the Enhanced 911 system to Macon County. He was a past president of the Macon County Fire Protection Association. He taught Fire Science Classes at Richland Community College and served on the long range planning committee for the college.

Excerpt from obituary
Decatur Herald & Review

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Website Update

Director Rick Zuffa is continuing to work with our web host Rich Applebee to provide you with a new and improved website. Future editions of "The Monitor" and other IEMTA information will be posted on the website. Keep checking our website, www.iemta.org, regularly as changes take place. THANKS RICK!



Legislative Update

Following are some EMS-related Rules in the First Notice Period. The time period for comments on proposed rulemaking is scheduled to end 45 days after the rulemaking is published in the Illinois Register (see 5 ILCS 100/5-40). For more information on these and other Rules or link to the comment form, go to:

<http://www.idph.state.il.us/rulesregs/proposedrules.htm>

**Emergency
Medical Services
and Trauma
Center Code**

(77 Ill. Adm. Code 515)

Illinois Register

Citation: 34 Ill.

Reg. 19368

Date Published:

December 17, 2010

The rules in Part 515 set forth requirements for Emergency Medical Services Systems, including licensing requirements for emergency medical technicians. The rules are being amended to implement Public Act 96-1469, which amended the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act to authorize the Department to suspend, revoke or refuse to issue or renew the license of any licensee who has been convicted of a Class X, Class 1, or Class 2 felony in Illinois or has been convicted of an equivalent offense in another state.

**Automated External
Defibrillator Code**

(77 Ill. Adm. Code 525)

Illinois Register Citation:

34 Ill. Reg. 15779

Date Published: October

15, 2010

Comment Period Ends:

November 29, 2010

Public Act 95-0447 amended the Automated External Defibrillator Act [410 ILCS 4] to delete the requirement that a person acquiring an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) take reasonable measures to ensure that the AED is used only by trained AED users and instead added that a person acquiring an AED shall take reasonable measures to ensure that any person considered to be an anticipated rescuer or user has completed CPR/AED training. Public Act 95-0447 also deleted the requirement that all AEDs be registered with the EMS System hospital. The AED Code currently requires the EMS System hospitals to collect incident reports for each use of an AED registered with them and then submit quarterly reports to IDPH summarizing their incident reports. In addition the hospitals are required to inform all ambulance providers of AEDs in their service areas. The proposed amendments will revise the statutory language and repeal requirements that are no longer included in the Act.

Proposed fees submitted to State EMS Council

IDPH has submitted the following fees to the State EMS Council for review. *These are only proposed and the fees filed as proposed Rules may be different.*

Section 515.460 Fees

- a) The following fees shall be submitted to the Department at the time of application for examination, initial licensure or certification, licensure or certification renewal, duplicate license, or reciprocity:
- 1) EMT-B licensure: \$45
 - 2) EMT-B renewal: \$20
 - 3) EMT-B examination: \$20
 - 4) EMT-I licensure: \$45
 - 5) EMT-I renewal: \$30
 - 6) EMT-I examination: \$30
 - 7) EMT-P licensure: \$60
 - 8) EMT-P renewal: \$40
 - 9) EMT-P examination: \$40
 - 10) Trauma Nurse Specialist licensure: \$50
 - 11) Trauma Nurse Specialist renewal: \$25
 - 12) Trauma Nurse Specialist examination: \$25
 - 13) Emergency Communications Registered Nurse licensure: \$55
 - 14) Emergency Communications Registered Nurse renewal: \$20
 - 15) Emergency Medical Dispatcher licensure: \$30
 - 16) Emergency Medical Dispatcher renewal: \$20
 - 17) Pre-Hospital RN licensure: \$30
 - 18) Pre-Hospital RN renewal: \$20
 - 19) Lead Instructor licensure: \$40
 - 20) Lead Instructor renewal: \$20
 - 21) First Responder licensure: \$55
 - 22) First Responder renewal: \$20
 - 23) Duplicate license: \$10
 - 24) Reciprocity: \$50
 - 25) Fees for re-instatement of a license or certification will be equal to the amount of the initial license or certification fee.
- b) *A first responder or an EMT who exclusively serves as a volunteer for units of local government or, in the case of a first responder, a not-for-profit organization that serves a service area with a population base of less than 5,000 may submit an application to the Department for a waiver of these fees on a form prescribed by the Department. (Section 3.60(b)(7) of the Act)*
- c) Fees shall be paid by certified check or money order made payable to the Department. Personal checks or cash shall not be accepted.
- d) If a candidate does not achieve a passing grade on the written examination, the fee for the retest is the same as for initial examination.
- e) All fees submitted for licensure examinations are not refundable.

This is "YOUR" newsletter. If you have an EMS event or article for The Monitor, please email your information to:

tony@crystalems.com

We value your input!

Court rules that “size matters”

In case looking good and feeling better is not motivation enough to hit the treadmill and pass on the double-cheeseburger, consider the case of *Hegwer v. Board of Civil Service Commissioners*

Historically, January is a month of resolution; save money, get out of debt, go back to school, get a better job, etc. The most common resolution — according to the talking heads on TV — is to lose weight. It's no wonder; America has become one of the fattest societies in all the world. I, too, have resolved to shed a few pounds in 2011. In fact, I will probably head back to the gym when I am finished writing this column. Probably...

In case looking good and feeling better is not motivation enough to hit the treadmill and pass on the double-cheeseburger, consider the case of *Hegwer v. Board of Civil Service Commissioners*.

In May 1979, Paramedic Hegwer applied for employment as a paramedic and was given a pre-employment physical examination. Based on the (Los Angeles) City Department of Personnel's entrance standards then in use, her hiring was "deferred" for mild obesity. Hegwer, whose height is roughly 5'3", was directed to return upon reducing her weight to less than 132 pounds. She was hired on May 5, 1980, weighing 130 pounds.

About two and a half years later, having exceeded her maximum allowable weight of 140 pounds (LAFD Rules and Regulations sections 10(f) and 12(i) and section 3/5-60.24.c of the Manual of Operation.) by approximately 25 pounds, Hegwer entered the (City's) weight control program.

Six months later, she was counseled following her failure to achieve her monthly weight goal of 157 pounds. Six months after that she was issued a "Notice to Improve" for falling short of her monthly goal of 151 pounds.

After maintaining her maximum allowable weight of 140 pounds for two months, in December, 1984, Hegwer recorded a weight gain of 20 pounds and was given an official reprimand. Shortly afterward, she requested a reevaluation of her weight requirements and her maximum allowable weight was adjusted upward to 150 pounds.

On June 25, 1985, Hegwer weighed in at 194 pounds, a weight gain of 27 pounds over her previously recorded weight. She received a one-day suspension. On April 4, 1986, she weighed 179 pounds. She received a four-day suspension.

Her performance evaluation report for the period ending June 24, 1986 stated: "Due to Hegwer's excessive weight she has lost some of her agility needed to perform her duties as a paramedic. Examples of this include working in tight areas such as automobiles and small bedrooms, moving patients down narrow hallways, over furniture, and through doorways. With a loss of weight Hegwer would gain agility and stamina and be more effective as a paramedic."

After weighing in at 216 pounds in December, 1987, an eight-day suspension was ordered and rescinded in favor of a less stressful administrative assignment, but she declined. By July, 1988, Hegwer had reached a weight of 225 pounds and a department physical revealed she was in "very poor" cardio-vascular health.

In January, 1989, she hit 231 pounds and was suspended for eight days and then another 14 days for failing to comply with departmental policy requiring that (Paramedics) "keep themselves in proper physical condition necessary to perform the duties of their position."

Hegwer appealed the suspensions with department contending, in essence, that her obesity did not amount to a failure to keep herself in proper physical condition necessary to perform the duties of a

paramedic, and that the failure to lose weight, standing alone, was not misconduct sufficient to support the disciplinary measures imposed. She lost and petitioned to have her case heard in Superior Court.

After a hearing in Superior Court, her petition was denied. The Court ruled that "...the Department's weight control program was "well within the scope of reasonableness;" that persuasive evidence established that appellant's obesity negatively affected her physical condition, and that because of her obesity, appellant was "not in proper physical condition to perform her job duties;" that appellant's conduct was "likely to cause harm to the public service;" and, that the penalties imposed "were proper in all respects, and ... were reluctantly imposed after (Hegwer) had been given significant opportunities to deal with her severe and potentially dangerous overweight condition (Hegwer v. Bd. of Civil Serv. Comrs., 5 Cal. App. 4th 1011, 1019-21, 7 Cal. Rptr. 2d 389, 393-95 (Cal. Ct. App. 1992)

The ruling in this case points out the obvious: that an overweight (provider) compromises his or her ability to perform required duties by failing to keep in proper cardiovascular condition. Moreover, penalties imposed by an administrative body are not excessive if employee's conduct, if repeated, is likely to result in harm to public service.

Finally, as if it was ever in question, this case relied upon undisputed evidence that EMS is physically demanding and that strength, endurance, agility and speed are essential to safe and efficient performance.

Since Hegwer, 19 years later, the problem of obesity among EMS Providers is not only personal, it has become another potential legal peril for providers and liability for agencies. Just imagine what a jury would say when they see that a life could have been saved had (the provider) been able to get into the automobile or small bedrooms, or had (the provider) been able to move the patients down a narrow hallway, over furniture, or through a doorway...for example.

While obesity seems to have become part of our societal landscape, it is a very serious issue and, for EMS Providers, carries potentially devastating consequences for the community (we) are meant to protect.

The Legal Guardian
by David Givot
EMS1.com



2011 CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE FORM

I, _____ am submitting my name as a candidate for a seat on the Board of Directors of the Illinois Emergency Medical Technician Association for Region #_____.

I am a resident of the State of Illinois, live in or am a member of an EMS service in the region for which I am running. I have been a member in good standing of the for at least six months prior to this election as stated in Article 4.6 of the Illinois Emergency Medical Technician Association Guide Lines.

This election shall be held on Sunday morning, March 13, 2011 during the 36th Annual Meeting of the Illinois Emergency Medical Technician Association at Northfield Inn, Suites & Conference Center, Springfield, Illinois.

This form must be filed with the Election Committee on or prior to February 13, 2011 to be included on the ballot.